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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

Contact: David L. Yowell
(918) 743-1365

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 1980

MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of December, 1979)

Seismic exploration for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters increased during the last thirty days to the highest level since early 1958, twenty-two years ago. The Society of Exploration Geophysicists which conducts the monthly survey of oil companies and contractors reported today the total number of seismic land crews and marine vessels active during December was 450, representing an increase of eleven land crews since November.

The December total (450) represents a 3% increase over last month, a 26% increase over December, 1978, a 37% increase over December, 1977, a 57% increase over December, 1976, a 74% increase over December, 1975, and a gain of 50% over the same month in 1974.

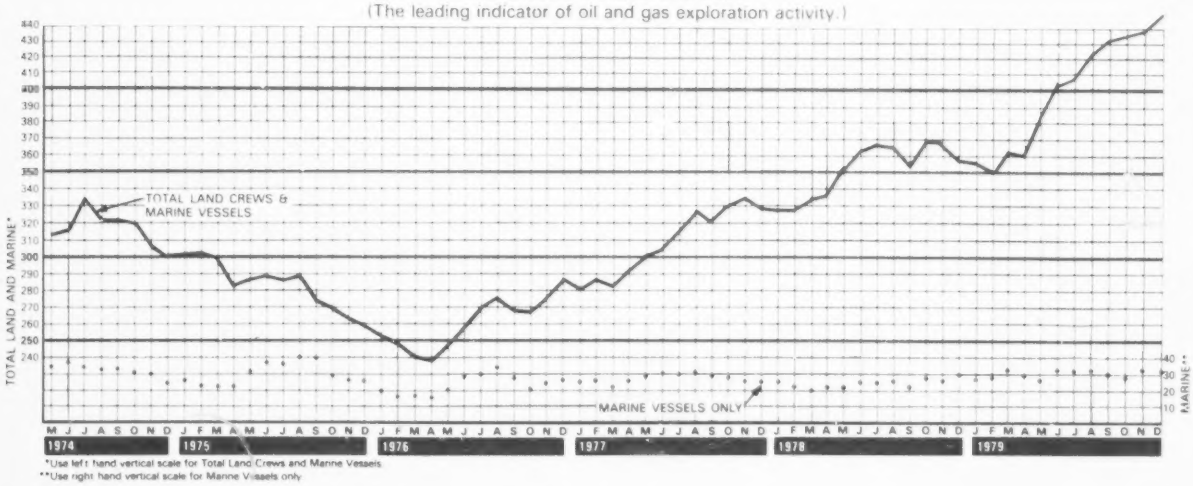
During December, five contractors were operating eight of their 380 land crews and one of their 25 vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Dec. '78	Dec. '77	Dec. '76	Dec. '75	Dec. '74
	450	439	358	329	286	259	300

	LAND CREWS							MARINE VESSELS						
	This Month	Last Month	Dec. '78	Dec. '77	Dec. '76	Dec. '75	Dec. '74	This Month	Last Month	Dec. '78	Dec. '77	Dec. '76	Dec. '75	Dec. '74
56 Contr's:	380	369	290	268	225	194	234	25	25	23	21	22	20	21
10 Oil Co's:	39	39	38	35	34	39	41	4	4	7	5	5	6	4
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	2	2	0	0	--	--	--
Totals:	419	408	328	303	259	233	275	31	31	30	26	27	26	25

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)


TOTAL LAND CREWS & MARINE VESSELS
MARINE VESSELS ONLY
TOTAL LAND AND MARINE*
MARINE**
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1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979

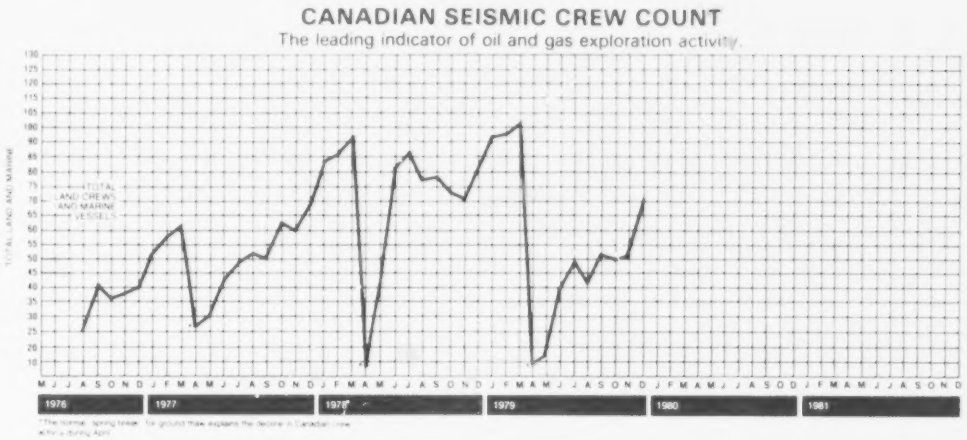
*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels.
**Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

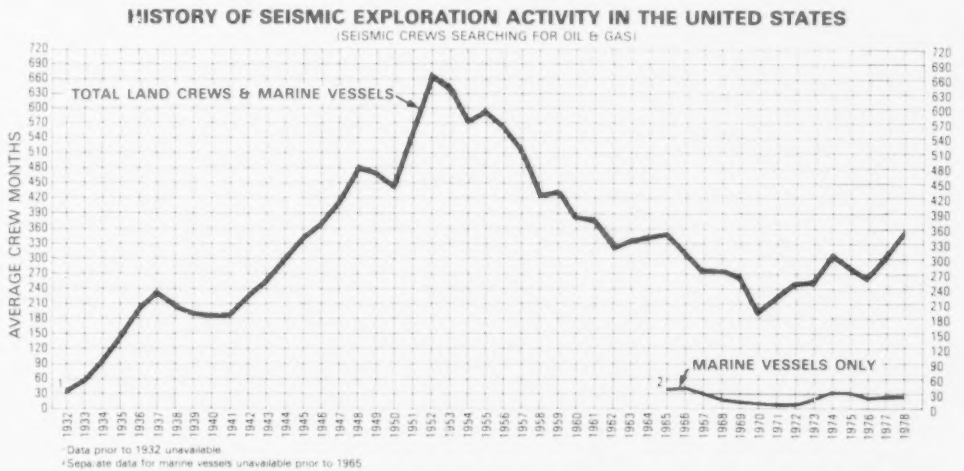
CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

December, 1979 (November figures in parentheses)

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
23 Contractors:	67 (48)	1 (1)
2 Oil Companies:	3 (3)	0 (0)
Totals:	70 (51)	1 (1)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.


HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES
(SEISMIC CREWS SEARCHING FOR OIL & GAS)
TOTAL LAND CREWS & MARINE VESSELS
MARINE VESSELS ONLY
AVERAGE CREW MONTHS
*Data prior to 1932 unavailable
†Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965

DAVID L. YOWELL
Assistant Executive Director

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February 8, 1980

Contact: David L. Yowell
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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of January, 1980)

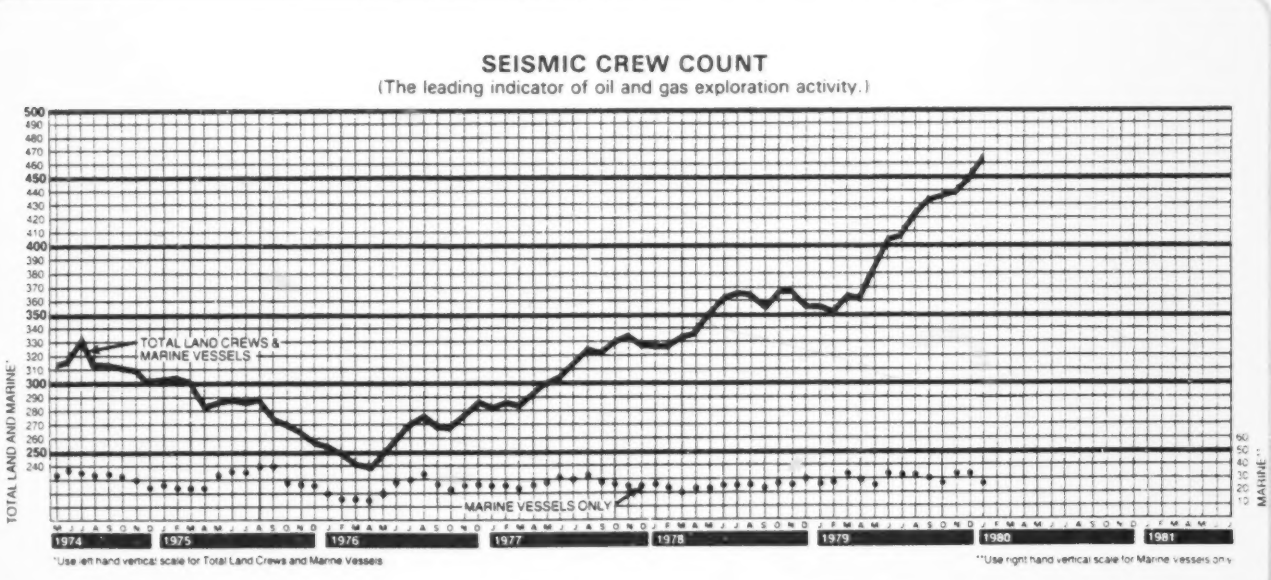
Continuing a trend which began nearly a year ago, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and natural gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters increased further during January. According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists which conducts the monthly survey, the total crew count for January (468) reflects a net increae of eighteen crews and vessels since December. The addition of eight relatively new contractors to the January survey added eleven land crews, accounting for slightly more than half of the twenty-land-crew increase since December.

The January total (468) represents a 4% increase over last month, a 32% increase over January, 1979, a 43% increase over January, 1978, a 67% increase over January, 1977, an 86% increase over January, 1976, and a gain of 55% over the same month in 1975.

During January, six contractors were operating eight of their 400 land crews and none of their twenty-four vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Jan. '79	Jan. '78	Jan. '77	Jan. '76	Jan. '75
	468	450	355	328	280	252	301

	LAND CREWS							MARINE VESSELS						
	This Month	Last Month	Jan. '79	Jan. '78	Jan. '77	Jan. '76	Jan. '75	This Month	Last Month	Jan. '79	Jan. '78	Jan. '77	Jan. '76	Jan. '75
66 Contr's:	400	380	290	267	220	194	233	24	25	21	20	20	15	22
10 Oil Co's:	39	39	37	35	34	38	41	5	4	7	6	6	5	5
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	0	2	0	0	--	--	--
Totals:	439	419	327	302	254	232	274	29	31	28	26	26	20	27



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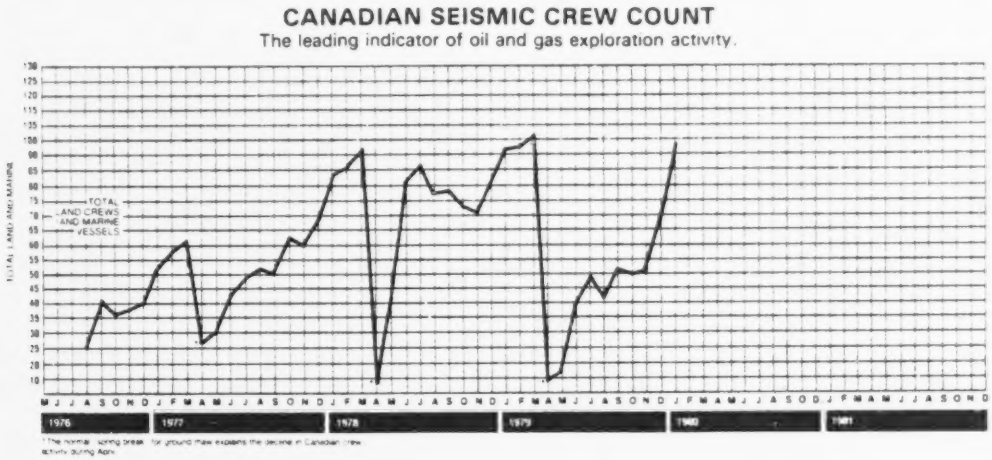
CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

January, 1980 (December figures in parentheses)

	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
23 Contractors:	95 (67)	1 (1)
2 Oil Companies:	3 (3)	0 (0)
Totals:	98 (70)	1 (1)



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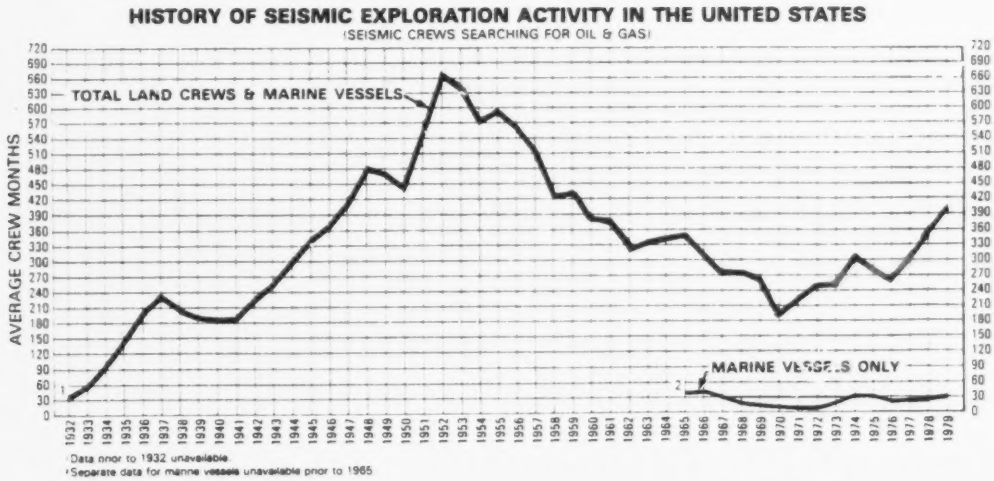
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